

No. R-420. Senate concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont Victim Assistance Program on its 30th anniversary and celebrating National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

(S.C.R.42)

By Senators Sears, Ashe, Benning, Nitka, and White,

Whereas, Acts and Resolves No. 182 of 1986 (Act 182) established the Vermont Victim Assistance Program, and

Whereas, the Vermont Victim Assistance Program was established “to reduce the financial, emotional and physical consequences of criminal victimization, to prevent victimization by the law enforcement and criminal justice system and to assist victims with problems that result from their victimization,” and

Whereas, Act 182 authorized the Department of State's Attorneys to hire nine full-time victim advocates charged with providing information, notification, and services to Vermont crime victims, and

Whereas, over the past 30 years, Victim Advocates have worked with thousands of Vermont crime victims in every county across the State to help them navigate the criminal justice system, access community resources, and advocate for personal safety, restitution, and justice, and

Whereas, in 2016, the Vermont Victim Assistance Program comprises 27 advocates, each of whom brings victim-centered and trauma-informed expertise, compassion, creativity, patience, and tireless commitment to those they serve, and

Whereas, as a result of the Vermont Victim Assistance Program, crime victims receive support and advocacy as they recover financially, emotionally, and physically from their experiences, and the criminal justice system as a whole is more transparent and accessible to the law-abiding public and responsive to the communities that it serves, and

Whereas, President Obama has proclaimed April 10–16 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2016, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors and celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of the Vermont Victim Assistance Program, recognizes the exceptional efforts of the Vermont State's Attorneys' Victim Advocates Program on behalf of Vermont's crime victims, and joins others across the country in celebrating National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2016, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Victim Assistance Program.